

61. (Amended) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein said CXCR3 protein or variant can [selectively] bind one or more chemokines and can mediate cellular signalling and/or a cellular response in response thereto, and wherein said CXCR3 protein or variant is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a second nucleic acid and the sequence of said second nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) and a sequence complementary to Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).
62. (Amended) The fusion protein of Claim 61, wherein said CXCR3 protein or variant can [selectively] bind one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of human IP-10 and human Mig.
63. (Amended) An isolated human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein or variant is at least about 90 % identical to that of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), said protein or variant comprises the extracellular N-terminal segment of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and said protein or variant can [selectively] bind one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig and mediate cellular signalling and/or a cellular response in response thereto.
64. (Amended) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein or variant is at least about 90 % identical to that of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), said CXCR3 protein or variant comprises the extracellular N-terminal segment of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and said CXCR3 protein or variant can [selectively] bind one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig and mediate cellular signalling and/or a cellular response in response thereto.